

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and replaced by a new claim 13, which is presented in a manner to overcome the § 112 rejection. Claims 3-12 have been withdrawn

Pages 10-13 and 15 of the Specification have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Double Patenting Rejection. New claim 13 as submitted is believed to patentably distinguish over the claims of U.S. patent 7,228,988 as well as U.S. patent 7,395,944.

A version of new claim 13 in which the numbers of the elements are inserted is attached. This refers mostly to Fig. 7 and the description at page 19 of the Specification.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being anticipated by Knoerzer, et al., U.S. publication 2003/0009989. New claim 13 patentably defines over Knoerzer for the reasons given below.

Knoerzer discloses a mechanism for applying tension to the tape using gravity. In Knoerzer, the direction of the width of the tape is kept in a horizontal state, and a weight put on the tape.

Contrasting with Knoerzer, in the present invention the roll (71) is provided in an inclined state (attached to the inclined attaching plate (101)). Therefore, when applying tension to the wrapping paper (72) by pulling the wrapping paper (72) from the roll to the vertical direction (Fig. 4) (gravity direction of Knoerzer), the wrapping paper (72) has to be twisted to be horizontal in the direction of its width. If the wrapping paper (72) is not twisted, a wrinkle is developed in the wrapping paper (72) because the tension will not be applied equally to both ends of the wrapping paper (72) in the direction of its width.

In the present invention, a tension application mechanism (113) is provided which applies a predetermined tension to the wrapping paper (72) pulled-out from the inclined roll (71) leaving the inclined state using gravity. In the present invention, the rail (118) is provided on the inclined attaching plate (101) to which the wrapping paper delivery mechanism (102) is disposed, and the roll (71) is attached to the wrapping paper delivery mechanism (102) (see Figs. 4 and 5).

Namely, the rail (18) is inclined to the direction which the attaching plate (101) is inclined. The operation section (21) is movable along the rail (118), and the rod (116) depresses the wrapping paper (72) to apply predetermined tension to the wrapping paper (72) due to gravity. Therefore, if the wrapping paper (72) is inclined as in the present invention, the tension can be applied equally to the wrapping paper. This structure is neither shown nor suggested by Knoerzer.

It is submitted that new claim 13 sets forth a novel and advantageous apparatus that patentably defines over the cited art. Therefore, the claim should be allowed.

Since all of the outstanding rejections have been overcome, the application should be allowed.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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